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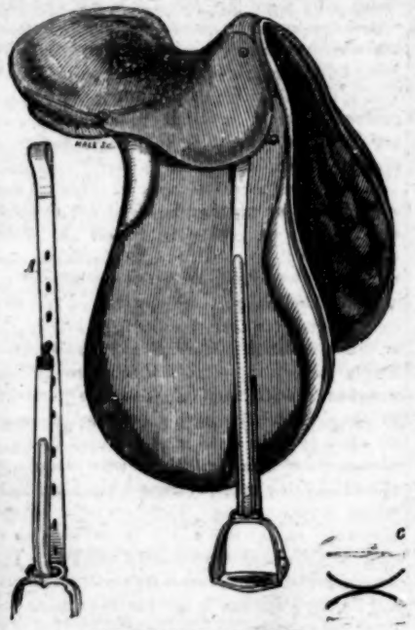

IMPROVED SADDLE.

The above engraving represents a new and important improvement in the manufacture of saddles, made by Mr. A. DEITZ, of this city. Instead of the old and unnatural convex saddles, we now have a reversed system, as the reader will perceive by a moment's glance. There is no mechanical branch of which we have a knowledge, wherein so many ineffectual attempts have been made to render the saddle easy to the rider, as well as the horse. The English saddle is undoubtedly superior to any other in use in the world, and that which takes its name from the inventor, Shaftoe, is now conceded to be the best in use, as far as regards ease and neatness. One of the improvements of this saddle is given above, which consists of a cushion, technically termed the roll, running along the forepart of the skirt, for the protection of the knee. According to the rules of riding, the rider is required to press or hug the horse, with the knee, to prevent, as much as possible, the heavy jolting caused by the action of the horse when moving faster than a walk; consequently, without this roll, the knee would rest upon the hard skirt of the saddle, which would soon become painful to the rider, as will be readily seen, inasmuch as the knee has but a thin covering over the bony projection at that point, and would therefore prevent his pressing the knee as much as is required for his ease, unless the cushion was there. The small puff in the upper corner of the skirt, next the seat, is for a rest to the thigh after leaving the support thereof.

There is also another kind of saddle, called the Somerset, which, no doubt, derived its name also from the inventor, and differs from the Shaftoe in having a cushion extending across the cantle or back of the saddle, and down each side, along the thigh, until it reaches the skirt, where a heavy roll is placed to support the back of the thigh, in a manner similar to the Shaftoe. This saddle, not being formed upon the true principles of ease, as a sitting posture demands, it has not been brought into general use, the seat being of the old convex kind, with the addition of a convex roll behind. The Spaniards in the isle of Cuba use a saddle different from most other nations, called the Demapeack. This saddle, behind, is similar to the Somerset, with the addition of another small convex roll before, but none on the skirt. What ease the rider could have from this compound of convexities and projections, the reader may easily imagine.

Besides these various fashions, throughout the world, innumerable attempts have been made, both in England, France, and this country, to attach springs to the saddle, for the mutual ease of the rider and his horse; but all have signally failed to have the desired effect. It will illustrate our aim, to show that the common saddles now in use do not give the satisfaction desired, to state the fact that at the time of the burning of the patent office at Washington, there were no less than *thirty* different models of patent spring saddles, not one of which, as far as our knowledge extends, is now in use.

Having thus briefly alluded to the various kinds of saddles now in use, we will proceed to a description of the principles and combinations of the newly invented saddle above represented, and leave the reader to judge between it and the old saddle now in use.

Of the two small circular cuts in the engraving, marked *c.*, the one below will show the convexity of the seat now in use; the one above, the concavity of the seat in the new saddle. The average width of saddle seats is about eleven inches. By placing a rule across the seat of those now in use there is but about from two and a half to three inches direct bearing—sloping down each way, to the edge of the seat, an inch and three-quarters; and, by placing the rule across the improved seat, it will touch or rest on the outer edges of the seat, sloping to the centre an inch and three-quarters, thus making a difference in the bearing of the two seats of three inches and a half.

Thus, circles being drawn, taking in the dimensions of the seats stated above, and the two convex circles marked *c*, in the engraving, will be the result and scale of one inch to the foot. Thus we can account for the numerous complaints of those who engage in the healthy exercise of horsemanship, on account of having a saddle unfitted to naturel ease.

The reader will readily perceive in the formation of the new saddle, that it is made in strict accordance with natural principles, and common sense, that man should have a concave seat forced to fit to him, not he to it. Are not all convex projections in nature met by a corresponding cavity? Instance the joints of the human body, all convexities of the frame, fit and work in corresponding concaves. Thus in this saddle the rider is supported on all the parts that have a bearing in a sitting posture, and on no one part more than another, as is the case in the old one. In making saddles, a great degree of compactness and solidity is necessary, otherwise the heavy action and reaction of the rider and horse would soon destroy or render it useless; hence it is often thought by riders that saddles are made too hard, and not enough of the easy cushion formation, but the mistake lies deeper. Saddles, like all other mechanical articles, should be formed in strict accordance with the laws of nature. The hatter, the tailor and shoemaker, will endeavor to fit the shape of the body in the construction of their various articles. The tailor will strive to fit the coat to the convexity of the back, the concavity of the arm-pit—the shoemaker to the convexity of the instep as well as the hollow of the foot, so as to render the support of the various parts of the foot proportionate; and why not then, fit the saddle in accordance with the same natural rules?

Having now given a description of the body of the saddle, we will direct the reader's attention to the improvement in the stirrup leather. We will first describe the old method that is now in use, that the defects may be the better seen.

In attaching the stirrup leather to the saddle with the spring stirrup bar, the whole of the stirrup leather is invariably placed on the outside of the skirt, leaving three thicknesses of leather and the buckle immediately under the jocky, and the end of the leather often hanging loose half way down the skirt, giving a bungling unfinished appearance, as well as adding a great and often painful annoyance to the rider.

The reader will observe, in the above cut, that on the saddle there is but one strap which forms the leather, until it passes down half way between the knee and the ankle, where it is lengthened, or shortened, as may be required. In the above cut, fig. *a.*, the stirrup leather is reversed. The top end is made with a loop, which is slipped on the spring bar, or stitched on the common bar.

On the other end of the leather is simply an iron hook of corresponding strength with the leather, which hooks in the holes, as shown in the above cut.

A thin piece of leather is stitched on the outside of the stirrup leather, over the holes, to prevent the hook from coming in contact with the leg—as seen on the saddle in the above cut.

This principle can be applied to ladies' saddles, not only to their ease and safety, but their convenience.

These saddles are manufactured by Mr. F. Keeler, No. 64 Market street, Albany.

THE METALS—NO. I.

Without going into a long essay to show the immense benefits which result to society in all its advanced stages, from a knowledge of the existence and use of the metals, it is merely intended, in this series of articles on this fruitful subject, to present such general facts in relation to them as may be supposed of interest to our numerous readers. It is not intended, nor, perhaps, is it necessary, to enter so deeply into the subject as many might desire—such we would refer to those works exclusively devoted to the consideration of these matters.

Although the globe on which we live presents but few traces of metalic veins on its surface, and at the period of its creation probably presented even fewer than it does at present, it is, nevertheless, an undoubted fact, that so soon as what we term the arts of life took place of the primitive rudeness of nature, mankind appear to have discovered and turned to account the various metals within their reach. In connection with this, and to illustrate the providence of our Creator, it may be remarked that those metals most necessary are also the most abundant. As to the manner in which the discovery was made of the existence, and subsequently of the use of the metals, we must remain entirely ignorant; accident, (and by accident have some of the most useful as well as splendid discoveries been made,) by accident, we say, must man originally have become acquainted with the existence, and perhaps also the use of the metals. The detection of

virgin pieces, or pieces of native metal in a pure, or nearly pure state, or the accidental effects of fire upon ores of some of the more fusible, may first have suggested their adaptment to purposes of ornament or use. The idea of the poet is not without force in in sustaining the hypothesis:

"While through the forest Tubal (with his yew
And ready quiver) did a boar pursue,
A burning mountain from his fiery vein,
An iron river rowles along the plain.
The witty huntsman, musing, thither hies,
And of the wonder deeply 'gan devise;
And first, perceiving that this scalding metal,
Becoming cold, in any shape would settle,
And grow so hard that with its sharpest side
The firmest substance it would soon divide;
He casts a hundred plans and yet he parts,
He moulds the groundwork of a hundred arts."

Be this as it may, that the metals were known and in use at very early times, is certain, and gold and silver being of the most obvious occurrence in those parts of the world which were earliest peopled, and moreover, being more easily reducible by the action of fire, would no doubt be the first submitted to smelting or malleary processes, rather, however, for purposes of ornament than for utensils of convenience, for ingenuity or for defence.

It is remarkable at how early a period, and how generally a knowledge of the value, as well as the ductility of the precious metals, seems to have obtained in the world; the most barbarous nations instinctively decorating themselves with ornaments of silver and gold. The utter unfitness of these metals for weapons of defence, or implements of any kind, must be apparent when we state the well known fact that in newly discovered countries, when these metals were neither unknown or scarce, the inhabitants were compelled to resort to pointed bones, sharpened flints, &c., for their bodkins or war spears; a nail, or any piece of iron, being of more value in their eyes than gold, or silver, or even the precious stones This fact was found of frequent occurrence by those discoverers who have traversed the sea in search of new lands. Copper, with an admixture of some hardening metal, seems to have been introduced in semi-civilized nations at a very early period; but, from all accounts, and from such occasional remnants as are now sometimes thrown up by the spade or the ploughshare; this compound metal bore some resemblance, though still far different, to the compound of copper and zinc, known as brass. The words which occur in ancient tongues as the names of this peculiar compound are freely translated *brass*, and hence we read and hear of brazen swords, brazen shields, brazen ploughshares, brazen helmets, brazen statutes, etc., and are often wrongly understood to mean the identical metal that bears that name at the present day. We shall refer more particularly to this compound when we come to speak of brass.

Of iron and steel—metals so pre-eminently valuable, the facts that virgin masses are extremely rare, and that the ore stone is very obstinate, yielding only to the most intense heat, as well as being found in too difficult situations to be advantageously worked, account for the ignorance of their existence and use at the earlier periods. The existence of native iron, which has been doubted, has been satisfactorily proved, from ample testimony. In 1752 a mass of maleable iron was said to have been found in Russia, which could be cut with chisels, and, as it was found in a country abounding in iron, it cannot be supposed to have been meteoric; though the fact that pieces of this kind have fallen from the clouds cannot be doubted. A similar mass was found in Otumba, in South America, which measured three yards across, and weighed 300 quintals. Portions of this mass are now preserved in the British museum.

With regard to the knowledge of iron and steel, it has been doubted by some whether even the Greeks, that polished nation, to which we look with so much reverence, were acquainted with their use. All translators of these languages have used these words freely, as iron and steel, though it is by no means clear that in the original they meant any thing more than the metals in general. We believe, however, Greek σιδηρος, if it means *any specific* metal, must mean iron. This matter, nevertheless, is not of much importance, more than to show that if the Greeks were unacquainted with this metal, they must have been possessed of some other fully equal in every respect, the knowledge of which is now lost, in order to shape and rear those mighty works of art which have defied the storms of centuries.

Metals may be considered as the great instruments of all improvement—without them many of the arts and sciences could hardly have existed. So sensible were the ancients of their great importance, that they raised those persons to the rank of deities who first discovered the art of working them. In chemistry they have always filled a conspicuous station; at one period the whole science was confined to them; and and it may be said to owe its very existence to a rage for making and transmuting metals. Indeed, the present state of chemical analysis leads to the opinion that all bodies will ultimately divide themselves in two classes, viz: the *metals* and supporters of combustion. The consideration of this, however, is foreign to our purpose.

The metals are distinguished by a peculiar brilliance which they possess, called *metallic lustre*. There are other bodies which possess this lustre, but it is confined to the surface, and disappears when scratched (mica for instance); but it pervades every part of the metals. They are also perfectly opaque, or impervious to light, even in the thinnest plates to which they can be reduced. The only exception is gold leaf, which is not absolutely opaque, for, when held between the eye and the light, appears of a lively green, and must, therefore, in accordance with the theory of Newton, transmit the green colored rays. It must be recollected, however, that gold leaf is only one two hundred and eighty thousandth of an inch in thickness. It is not improbable, however, that all metals, could they be reduced to that extreme thinness, would also transmit light, in an equal, if not greater degree. Silver, one one hundred and sixty thousandth of an inch in thickness, is perfectly opaque. All metals may be melted when heated sufficiently. Some require but little heat to melt them, others a great deal. Platinum requires a more intense heat than any other; while quicksilver, for instance, in the ordinary temperature, is liquid, while under great cold it becomes solid, like silver. All the old metals are at least five times heavier than water. Some, as platinum, more than twenty times heavier. Some of the newly discovered metals, however, are lighter than water, and, of course, will float.

Metals are the best conductors of electricity, of all known bodies. None of them are very hard, in a natural state, but may be rendered so by artificial means; and their elasticity, also, is increased by the same or similar processes. Some are capable, like gold, of being hammered very thin, and are called *malleable;* others may be extended under the rolling press, and are called *laminable;* others, drawn into wire, and called *ductile*. Iron, for instance, is not malleable to any great extent, but is quite ductile. The brittle metals are so called in distinction of those which are *tenacious*. In this respect there is a remarkable difference between the metals. As this property depends upon the cohesion between the particles, the relative strength is, according to Sickingen, as follows:

Gold,	150,955	Copper,	304,696
Silver,	190,771	Soft Iron,	362,927
Platina,	262,361	Hard Iron,	559,880

A wire of iron 0,073 of an inch in diameter will support 550 pounds without breaking. The tenacity of some kinds of iron, for instance the Swedish, is greater than others, sometimes varying as much as one fifth.

Most of the metals may be burnt, and reduced, by a combination in that state, with oxygen, chlorine, or iodine, into oxides, chlorides, and iodides. The rust of iron, which occurs when exposed to damp or the atmosphere, is an oxide; a combination of the oxygen, which forms a constituent part of air as well as water, with the iron. All metals may be converted into oxides by the action of acids, in which state they lose their distinctive character as metals in every degree, being converted into earthy looking bodies, devoid of metallic lustre and ductility, As they are capable of combining in various proportions, the oxides are distinguished by affixing the Greek numerals, for instance the *deutoxide* of tin, is simply the *second* oxide of tin; the last oxide, however, is called the *peroxide*, which means that the metal has combined as much oxygen as it can possibly take up. The metals, most of them, combine with the simple combustibles, such as sulphur, phosphorus, as well as the gasses which support combustion. For instance, those crystals of a semi-metallic color, lozenge-shaped or cubed, so common where iron ore is abundant, are simply the crystals of sulphuret of iron, or a compound of iron and sulphur. They are better known as *iron pyrites*. The metals also combine each with the other by being fused together, sometimes forming compounds of great utility. Pewter is a compound of lead and tin; brass, of copper and zinc; bell metal, of copper and tin. These are called alloys, except when one of the metals is mercury, in which case they are sometimes called *amalgams*. The reflecting portion of mirrors is an amalgam of mercury and tin, the glass merely serving to protect and keep the metal extended.

The number of known metals is now about 45, of which only 11 were known before 1730. Their names are as follows: 1. platinum; 2. gold; 3. silver; 4. palladium; 5. mercury; 6. copper; 7. iron; 8. tin; 9. lead; 10. nickel; 11. cadmium; 12. zinc; 13. bismuth; 14. antimony; 15. manganese; 16. cobalt; 17. tellurium; 18. arsenic; 19. chromium; 20. molyodenum; 21. tungsten; 22. columbium; 23. silenium; 24. osmium; 25. rhodium; 26. iridium; 27. uranium; 28. titanium; 29. cerium; 30. potasium; 31. sodium; 32. lithium; 33. calcium; 34. barium; 35. strontium; 36. magnesium; 37. yttrium; 38. glucinum; 39. aluminum; 40. zirconium; 41. silicium; 42. thorinum; 43. vanadium, etc. The first twelve are malleable, as well as the 30th, 31st and 32d, in their congealed state. Gold, silver, platinum, and mercury, were long called *noble*, because their oxides might be reduced, and the metal returned pure, by the mere action of heat.

The ancients gave to the seven following metals the names of the planets, and denoted each of them by particular marks.

Gold	was the	Sun	and represented by	☉
Silver	"	Moon	"	☽
Mercury	"	Mercury	"	☿
Copper	"	Venus	"	♀
Iron	"	Mars	"	♂
Tin	"	Jupiter	"	♃
Lead	"	Saturn	"	♄

The applicability of the circle for the Sun and the cresent for the Moon is evident. The character ☿ is supposed to represent the caduceus or wand of Mercury; ♀ the looking glass of Venus; ♂ the lance and shield of Mars; ♃ the thunderbolt of Jove; ♄ the scythe of Saturn, or Time. But this is a digression.

We have not in this paper gone into the matter very fully, for a very obvious reason. In our next we shall take up gold, and so proceed through the whole regularly, endeavoring to make these limited essays rather of a readable than a scientific character,

and strip the subject as much as possible of those scientific technalities that only bewilder and disgust the common reader.

From the Albany Argus.

THE STATE PRISON BILL.

In Assembly, March 30.

The bill in relation to Convict Labor in the State Prisons, was read a third time

Mr. CARPENTER moved to recommit the bill with instructions to strike out the 8th section, providing for the appointment of a legislative committee, to visit the state lands and iron mines at the north, with a view to ascertain the practicability of employing convicts in the business of mining and smelting.

Mr. CUYLER demanded the ayes and noes, on this motion, and they were ordered, and

Messrs. WEIR, TOWNSEND, SIMMONS, and SWACKHAMER opposed the motion, contending that the section was one of the most valuable and essential in the bill.

Mr. HUNT moved to add instructions to report the bill complete—which was agreed to, and

Mr. CARPENTER's motion, as amended, was rejected, ayes 29, noes 68.

Mr. SEYMOUR then moved to amend the section so as to give the appointment of the committee to the Comptroller and Secretary of State.

Mr. WEIR objected, and

Mr. SEYMOUR moved to recommit, with instructions to make that amendment.

Mr. D. R. F. JONES called for a division of the question, and

The house refused to recommit.

Mr. STARR moved to recommit for another purpose, but

The motion was declared out of order, and

The question was put on the final passage of the bill, and it *passed*, ayes 76, noes 24, as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Arnold, Baker, E. Baldwin, E. G. Baldwin, Bird, Bradley, Brownson, Burhans, C. Burnham, J. C. Burnham, Case, S. E. Church, Cramer, Cuyler, Davezac. Davis, P. Devendorf, Dix, Dubois, Eells, Flagler, Foster, Fuller, Green, Grout, Hathaway, Hitchcock, Humphrey, Jansen, Johnson, D. R. F. Jones, W. Jones, Kelly, R. C. Kenyon, V. Kenyon, Ketcham, Lansing, Laraway, Lawson, Lott, McQuigg, Maclay, Mead, Morse, Palmer, Peirce. Pentz, Pratt, Redington, Robbins, Rogers, Scovil, Seymour, Shear, Shelton, Simmons, Smiley, Smith, Speaker, Spencer, Starr. Stetson, Stimson, Strong, Swackhamer, Taylor, Townsend, Tucker, W. M. Udall. Van Slyck. Van Wyck, Weir, J. Wells, Wilson, Winslow—76.

NAYS—Messrs. Barrows, Beach, Carpenter, E. C. Church, Dana, Erwin, Griffin, Higgins, Hoffman, Hulburd, Hunt, Ives, Juliand, McKie, Marcellus, Russell, Storing, Swartwout, Thorp, Van Alstyne, Warren, B. F. Wells, D. S. Wright, G. Wright—24.

This bill occupied the Senate nearly all of both sessions on Monday. It was vehemently opposed by Gen. ROOT, who denounced those who had sought this relief for the mechanics from the effect of state prison labor, and the newspapers that had advocated it, as playing a game of demagogueism, in which the interests of the state were to be sacrificed to political considerations. The imputation, so far as we know, is alike unfounded and unjust. The mechanics ask protection against the money and the cheap and degraded labor of the state; and they ought not to ask in vain. The law of 1835, it is believed, will afford this protection, if its provisions be not evaded or violated; and that it should be made effectual, or be erased from the statute book, we hold to be no more than common sense and common justice.

In Senate, Monday, Aril 4.

By Mr. BARTLIT, reported a bill in relation to convict labor in the state prisons—(complete, without amendment.)

On the question of ordering the bill to a third reading,

Mr. ROOT opposed that order, insisting that the bill should receive discussion before the committee of the whole. He had hoped that the report made to the senate at the last session by the then chairman of the committee on state prisons (Mr. Peck) would have convinced even the mechanics themselves that they should cease troubling the community, troubling the legislature, and troubling themselves, with their complaints on this subject. Mr. R. concluded by moving to recommit the bill to a committee of the whole.

Mr. BARTLIT said this subject had been discussed for several days in the Assembly, and the printed bill, varying in not a single word from the engrossed bill, had been some time on the table of every senator. The motion to take it from the general orders had been made when the Senate was full, and prevailed, with little or no objection. The state prison committee were unanimous in reporting favorably upon the bill, and the same senators had been also unanimous in reporting the bill complete, and recommending it to a third reading. One word as to the bill: it was mainly designed to carry into effect the intentions of the law of 1835, with the additional provision for an examination in a measure which might possibly be adopted as a more effectual remedy. The senator seemed to suppose that the report of last year shou d have silenced even mechanics themselves, so that their complaints should no longer trouble the legislature That report, although able, was but an argument, addressed to the understandings of men; and so long as it was admitted on all hands, that the evils complained of did exist, to a greater or less degree, it was not to be expected that complaints could be silenced by a report, which looked only at one side of the subject. Mr. B. hoped the bill would not be recommitted, because, at this period of the session, that would amount almost to a certain defeat of its passage.

Mr. ROOT farther supported his motion to recommit; and it was put, and lost, as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Dickinson, Dixon, Ely, Hard, Hawkins, Hopkins, Hunt, Nicholas, Platt, Root, Works—11.

Noes—Messrs. Bartlit, Bockee, Clark, Corning, Denniston, Faulkner, Foster, Franklin, Furman, Hunter, Johnson, Paige, Ruger, Scott, Sherwood, Strong, Varian, Varney—18.

Mr. ROOT then said he would address himself to the merits of the bill, if it had any; and proceeded, at length, to discuss the principle involved in the bill—and to denounce the complaints of the mechanics as unfounded—the friends of the bill as demagogues seekimg to purchase for their party the votes of mechanics, at the expense of the state—the editors of the two leading newspapers in Albany, of both political parties, as having disgraced themselves, if that were possible, by their appeals to mechanics—&c. &c.

Mr. BARTLIT replied, also at considerable length.

Mr. HARD moved to strike out the 8th section of the bill, which provides for the appointment of a legislative committee to make inquries as to the practicability of employing the prisoners in mining or smelting. Mr. H. supported his motion in an argument against the mode of appointment, if such an inquiry was necessary.

Mr. DICKINSON was in favor of striking out the 8th section, and offered a substitute for it, allowing the committee only their travelling expenses.

Mr. SCOTT opposed the motion to strike out, regarding the inquiry proposed to be conducted according to the 8th section, as one of the most important features of the bill.

Mr. BARTLIT replied to some suggestions by Messrs. Hard and Dickinson.

Mr. ELY moved to amend, so as to provide for the appointment of a commission by the Governor, Secretary of State and Comptroller, to make the investigation proposed by the 8th section.

Mr. PECK sustained the proposed inquiry, and argued that an additional prison would soon become necessary, from the increase of crime growing out of the public works, and other causes. He considered the north part of the state as a proper location, and he would therefore vote to retain the section in some shape.

On motion of Mr. ROOT the consideration of the question was postponed until to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to

Half past 3 P. M.

The Senate concurred in the amendment of the Assembly to the bill providing for the erection of an armory for the Sing Sing guards, (reducing the cost from $2000 to $1000.)

Wednesday half past 3 P. M.

Mr. BARTLITT moved that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the bill in relation to convict labor in the state prisons.

The first question pending was upon an amendment offered by Mr. ELY, to the 8th section, which would substitute for the legislative committee to examine the mines and report upon the expediency of devoting a portion of the labor of convicts to the business of mining and smelting—a commissioner to be appointed by the Governor, Secretary of State, and Comptroller.

Mr. E. briefly supported his amendment. If this eighth section meant any thing it contemplated the erection of a new prison in the mining districts, and the removal of a portion of the convicts to it, for the purpose of being engaged in mining and smelting. For the purpose of making the preliminary examination with a view to the adoption of this new policy, Mr. E. preferred that a man of scientific acquirements as well as practical judgment, should be selected, rather than a legislative travelling committee. He wished that the appointing power should be more responsible than would be the case in the appointment of a committee by the two houses of the legislature.

Mr. BARTLIT said this bill had been adopted in the Assembly, after much discussion and diversity of sentiment, rather as a measure of compromise. As he could not tell what would be the effect of this amendment, upon the fate of the bill in the other house, therefore, he did not feel warranted in assenting to this proposed amendment, although he had no objection to its principle.

Mr. FOSTER said, were this an original proposition here, he should go for it; as it struck him favorably when it was first announced. But he was informed that a similar proposition had been submitted in the other house, and voted down by a decided majority. Under the circumstances, therefore, he should vote to retain the section in the shape in which it passed the Assembly.

The amendment was adopted, ayes 17, noes 11.

Mr. HARD then withdrew his motion to strike out the 8th section.

Mr. DICKINSON inquired as to the effect of the 5th section, which required all existing contracts to be reported to the Attorney General, and annulled, if they shall be found to be illegal, as contrary to the law of 1835.

Mr. SHERWOOD replied, that if the contracts were illegal, the sooner they were annulled the better.

Mr. DICKINSON wished to know, in case of the annulling of the contracts, how the prisoners were to be maintained. He saw no provision in the bill, for drawing upon the treasury of the state for the deficiency in the income of the prison.

Mr. RHOADES gave it as his opinion, derived from an examination of the subject, that nearly all of these contracts would be found to be in direct conflict with the law of 1835; and that the discontinuance of those contracts would cause an immediate deficiency in the means of subsistence of the prison. As a test of the opinions of senators, he would move to strike out the section.

Mr. SHERWOOD replied to Mr. Dickinson, that sufficient provision would be found in the Revised Statutes, for the support of the prisons. They were now a charge upon the treasury, and their proceeds were paid into the treasury.

Mr. STRONG had looked upon it as a contempt of legislative authority, in the agents of the prisons, to persist in making contracts for mechanical labor, in the face of the law of 1835. And if it should prove to be true, as stated by the gentleman from the 7th (Mr. Rhoades,) that the suspension of labor under these illegal contracts would create a demand on the state treasury, he would still be in favor of their abrogation, if they were found to be contrary to law. It was now admitted by all—the only difference of opinion was as to the extent—that the mechanics as a class were injured by the employment of convicts in their business; and, even should the public burdens be increased, ought not the injustice to be redressed immediately? Was there any justification for continuing the burden upon a particular class, instead of imposing it equally upon the whole people?

Mr. BARTLIT explained at some length what he supposed would be the operation of the section.

Mr. PECK gave some detailed statements as to the work now contracted for at the Auburn prison—alleging that shoemakers and tailors were only employed at those trades; and that the greatest portion of those convicts who were not employed at the trades which they had previously learned, were set work at weaving.

The debate was continued by Messrs. SHERWOOD and ROOT, for some time.

Some further remrrks were made, when the final question was taken, and the bill PASSED—ayes 25, noes 3—Messrs. DIXON! PECK!! and ROOT !!! in the negative!

The following brilliant sentiment by Canning was used as a motto of the London Mechanic's Magazine:

"One great and kindling thought from a retired and obscure man, may live when thrones are fallen, and the memory of those who filled them is obliterated; and like an undying fire, may illuminate and quicken all future generations."

SELF-MADE MEN.

No. IX.

BENJAMIN THOMPSON,

Now best known by the title of Count Rumford, was a native of Woburn, Massachusetts; where he was born in 1752. He early discovered a fondness for natural philosophy, and attended a course of lectures by the professor in that department of science, in the university at Cambridge. Thompson was afterwards a teacher of youth; but he early married a lady of considerable property. About this period he received a commission as major in the provincial militia. When the revolution took place, he was found on the side of the parent government. His knowledge of the country rendered him useful to the British commander in Boston. But he went to England in 1776, and was rewarded with a situation in the foreign office under Lord G. Germaine. Near the close of the revolutionary war, he was sent to New York, and was there appointed colonel of dragoons. At the peace of 1783, he went with the British troops to England; and had soon after the honor of knighthood. He was also a short time, one of the under secretaries of State. In 1786, he went to the continent, and entered the service of the duke of Bavaria. While in this service, Sir Benjamin recommended and effected some important reforms, both in the military and civil departments of the state. The most beneficial was a plan to suppress mendicants who overrun and impoverished the country. By his advice, labor was provided for the poor who were able to work, and a spirit of industry was excited among the lower classes of the poor. He also introduced a cheap diet for the support of those paupers who were supported at public expense, which was at the same time, wholesome and comfortable. But the benefit of his plan was not confined to those who were paupers. For these useful services, the sovereign of Bavaria conferred on him several orders of knighthood, made him lieutenant general, and created him COUNT RUMFORD.

After a residence of about twelve years in Bavaria, count Rumford returned to England; where he remained only a few years, when he removed to Paris. But he was not inactive while in England, at this time. He suggested a plan and assisted in the foundation of the royal institution which led to other similar establishments. He was also employed in making experiments on the nature and application of heat, which proved highly useful when applied to culinary purposes. His apparatus for cooking was a very economical discovery.

He continued in France, though he removed a few miles from Paris, chiefly on account of the climate, which he found more favorable to his health than England. In that situation, he devoted himself partly to the embellishment of his grounds, and partly to experimental philosophy and chemistry. Soon after he went to France, he married the widow of the celebrated Lavoisier; and he also recieved a pension from the king of Bavaria of £1200.

Count Rumford died in 1814; leaving a daughter by his first wife, who resided sometime in Boston and vicinity, and whose address was countess of Rumford.

It would not be proper to rank count Rumford among the most learned men of his age, or even of the United States. To general and extensive literature, his friends put in no claims for him. But he is justly entitled to the praise of being a practical philosopher, and a very useful member of society. It is not intended to represent him as equal to Franklin; but he has the merit of making his own character, like that great man; and of introducing some useful improvements into the ordinary affairs of life. And this is proof of a beneficial, if not of a recondite and profound philosophy.

THE MECHANIC.

Mechanics! whose toil is the wealth of the nation,
Whose breasts are its bulwarks when danger is nigh,
Tho' humble your lot and despised your vocation,
You have honor and wealth that the world cannot buy.
The minions of wealth may affect to despise you,
Pronouncing you ignorant, sordid and base,
But the moment will come that shall teach them to prize you,
The scorn they have written, themselves shall erase.

Not theirs is the hand that can turn back the billow
That threatens to sweep o'er our altars and homes,
They may live in the breeze that but plays with the willow,
But wo unto them when the hurricane comes.
They must call upon you in the mom nt of danger,
When the war banner spreads its red folds to the air,
When our homes are assailed by the hands of a stranger,
And our vallies re-echo with cries of despair.

Where of Rome's faded grandeur her ruins are telling,
Where Athens' proud temples reflect back the sun,
In Palmyra's streets, now the the jackal's lone dwelling,
Are recorded the triumphs by industry won.
There is not a nation where science has flourished,
There is not a land that the arts have adorned,
But your valor has guarded, your industry nourished,
Thro' glory and shame, tho' degraded and scorn'd.

Your labor in peace, like a bright living fountain,
Sends rivers of wealth to replenish the earth,
And in war, like the storm beaten rock of the mountain,
You ward off the blast from the land of your birth.
But when peace, like the sun, o'er your country is shining,
For the wealth you bestow they repay you with sneers,
And the wounds you have borne in her cause unrepining,
Ingratitude bathes with adversity's tears.

When the herald of fame in the annals of story,
The deeds of a hero proclaims thro' the land,
The monument raised to emblazon his glory,
And the deeds they record are the work of thy hand.
But what your reward when the conflict is ended?
Or where is your niche in the temple of fame?
The laurels you won, with another's are blended,
And darkness still rests on the artizan's name.

Yet bow not your hearts to a proud man's reviling,
More noble in sorrow than he in his pride;
At each mark of disdain with true dignity smiling,
Your acts will rebuke when your lot they deride.
Let hope cheer your path, though despised and neglected,
Be virtue your shield when temptation is nigh;
By honor's bright code be your actions directed,
Deserve and demand the respect they deny.

For ages you languished in darkness and sorrow,
Toiling on, for the wealth that another must reap;
Each day of regret but the type of tomorrow,
As wave reflects wave o'er the face of the deep.
But one after one your chains have been riven,
And the day star of hope from the horizon rose;
When the star-spangled flag to Columbia given,
Call'd the children of toil 'neath its shade to repose.

Then high be your aim, for the portals of glory,
By freedom unbarr'd now disclose to the view
A tablet whereon to emblazon your story,
An urn for the tears to your memory due.
When your country's proud star thro' futurity shining,
Beams bright with the deeds that her children have done,
May the loveliest wreath round her diadem twining,
Be that which her toil worn mechanics have won.

BUFFALO CITY,

Erie county, possessing commanding advantages, is distant from Albany 284 miles by nearest rout; 318 miles by railroad, and 363 miles by the Erie canal. It is situated at the head of Niagara river, the outlet of Lake Erie, and at the foot of the great chain of western lakes, and is the point where the vast trade of these inland seas are concentrated. The site of the city is one of much beauty, having a gentle southern inclination towards the lake. The harbor, formed of Buffalo creek, lies nearly east and west across the southern part of the city, and is separated from Lake Erie by a peninsula between the creek and lake. This harbor is a very secure one, and is of such capacity that, although steam boats, ships and other lake craft, and canal boats, to the number, in all, of from two to three hundred, have some times been assembled there, for the transaction of the business of the lakes; yet, not one fourth part of the harbor has ever yet been occupied by the vast business of the great and growing west. Facilities, however, have been wanting for bringing together the lake and canal craft, in the eastern part of the harbor; and to furnish these, the canal commissioners, under a special law of the state, are now engaged in extending the Erie canal a mile or more, east of its original termination, across the eastern part of the city, and parallel to the harbor; by which work, and cross cuts therefrom, canal boats will reach every part of the harbor with equal facility. The territory of the city is divided north and south, by Main street, into two nearly equal surfaces; but by far the greater portion of its inhabitants occupy the eastern half of the city. Buffalo was first settled by the whites in 1801. In 1814 it was all burned by the British, except three buildings. In 1832 it was chartered as a city, and divided into 5 wards; being governed by a mayor, recorder and board of aldermen. Its population in 1840, according to the United States census, was 18,213. In 1818 the first steam boat was built upon Lake Erie; and the total number of sail craft upon these waters, at that time, was 30. There are now, 1841, between 50 and 60 steamboats, with 300 schooners and other sail craft, navigating Erie and the upper lakes; and carrying on an extensive commerce from Buffalo westward, *twelve hundred miles*, through this chain of inland seas. In 1825, there were but 200 arrivals and clearances of steamboats and other vessels at Buffalo, during the season of navigation. In 1840, there were 4,061 of these! In 1826, the amount of property sent east, upon the Erie canal from Buffalo, was 5,134; in 1840, the property so sent amounted to 177,607 tons. In 1826, the tolls upon the Erie canal received at Buffalo; amounted to but $19,528; in 1840, the sum so received was $376,417! At this astonishing rate of increase is the great west pouring her rich products to the Atlantic markets, through the medium of Buffalo harbor and the Erie canal. By means of the Erie canal and the Hudson river, Buffalo is now connected with Albany and New York; while by a chain of railroads, now nearly completed, she will soon be as directly connected by land through these, with Albany and Boston, Massachusetts. The streets in the most compact portions of the city, are paved; and the buildings, particularly those for business, are of the most durable construction, and modern style. The sale of goods here, bears a due proportion to the amount of western lake commerce, and of course is very great. Many of the wholesale dealers are direct importers from Europe, on their own account. By an act of the legislature, the common schools of Buffalo have been taken out of the operation of the state school law, and erected into FREE SCHOOLS, under the control of the common council, for the education of *all classes* of youth, without charge for tuition, the expenses being defrayed by the city authorities. A farther valuable aid to intellectual culture is here found in the "Young Men's Association," an incorporated body, having 450 members. It is out of debt, and owns a library of 3,500 volumes, purchased at a cash cost of $5,000, and containing a great number of choice and rare works.

The city has a court house, jail and county clerk's office; 2 public markets, one with the city offices in the 2nd story; 3 Presbyterian, 2 Episcopal, 1 Baptist, 2 Roman Catholic, 1 Unitarian, 1 Universalist, 3 German Protestant, 1 Bethel, 1 Methodist and 2 African churches; 1 theater, 1 orphan asylum, 2 banking houses, 1 fire and marine insurance company, a number of well kept hotels and taverns; 13 forwarding houses, besides a great number of wholesale and retail stores of different kind; 1 flouring mill, 1 saw mill, 2 extensive tanneries, 1 morocco factory, 1 steam engine manufactory, 3 carriage manufactories, 1 woollen blanket manufactory, 14 breweries, 5 soap and candle factories, 4 tobacco factories, 1 steam planing machine, 2 iron foundries, 2 brass do., 2 lock factories, 2 silver platers, 1 Britannia ware, 1 Burr millstone, 1 lead pipe, 1 starch, 1 saleratus, 1 stone ware manufactory; 2 chemical laboratories, 1 ship yard with marine railway attached; an United States barracks constructed of brick; 1 type and stereotype foundery, 8 printing offices, 2 book publishing establishments, and 2 book-binderies, besides most every other kind of mechanic establishments. Here is a pier or mole constructed of wood and stone by the United States government, extending 1,500 feet on the south side of the mouth of the creek, or harbor. Upon the head of this pier, is a light house 46 feet high and 20 feet in diameter at its base, a beautiful and durable structure, erected in 1832—3. The Buffalo and Black Rock, and Buffalo and Niagra Falls railroads, both commence at this place.

In regard to the commerce of the "Far West," which centres in Buffalo, a writer justly remarks:—"Few men have duly estimated the value of our 1,500 miles uninterrupted lake navigation. A coast of 3,000 miles, connecting with numerous canals and railroads, whose aggregate length, when they shall be completed, will greatly exceed the length of all our inland seas, must create an amount of commerce far greater than has ever yet been witnessed on the waters of the Mediterranean. Our vast western world is still almost entirely either an unbroken forest or open prairie. But there is no people on the globe more enterprising and industrious than ours, nor is there another country where labor is equally rewarded. The new state of Michigan produced 3,000,000 of bushels of wheat last season, and her crop this year is said to be increased 20 per cent. Wisconsin is a large territory, and equally if not better adapted to the growth of this important staple. The fertility of northern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, is well known. The early completion of the Wabash and Erie, and the Illinois and Michigan canals, is now reduced to a certainty. This will create a new era in the amount of goods to be sent west, and of agricultural products to be sent east through this great northern channel of trade."—*Disturnell's New Gazetteer.*

ALBANY, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1842.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA—No. II.

In our paper of last week we adverted to one reason urged as a pretence for a war with England, the north eastern boundary question. Among the remaining reasons, the Caroline affair is prominent, and, in this case, though the act of aggression, and the subsequent course of the British government, seem to furnish ample ground for a declaration of hostilities; yet, even here, there are many circumstances to be considered, which will put quite a different aspect upon the affair than it assumes at the first glance. That the minions of the British government violated a long established principle, and committed an act that should brand the participators with eternal ignominy, we most boldly avow. We will go further, and insist that, if one or all of those miscreants who were engaged in that attack should fall into the hands of the state government, they should, upon conviction, be dealt with according to our laws, *as murderers*, the government of Great Britain or our own national government to the contrary notwithstanding. But, that we should be justified in making even this outrage the ground of aggression from our side, we deny. If England chooses to declare war against us, in case any of those individuals engaged in that outrage should suffer by our laws, we have only to say, it will be, on their part, a war of injustice—and when we have the *truth* and *right* on our side, we need not fear the consequences. But England is too wise, too politic, to adopt such a course—she knows she could not embark in such a war with safety.

It is also to be remembered that, at the time of the commission of this outrage, partisan feeling and prejudice ran high—that many Americans encouraged the rebellion in that country, with whom we were at peace. Did not hundreds of Americans connive openly with the insurgents, and furnish them arms and stores—did not hundreds use their money and influence in furthering their designs—aye more, did not hundreds openly invade, from the American (*neutral*) shores, the soil of Canada—and would not the necessary, the natural consequence of these steps be to fan into a flame the indignation of those English subjects who professed loyalty to Britain? Most certainly. We do not wish to be understood as deciding on the merits of that insurrection. That is foreign to our purpose, and, whether the insurgents were right or wrong, we do not pretend to say; it is sufficient for our purpose to know that those persons who aided and abetted in any of those movements, did so in direct violation of the existing treaty between the governments of England and America, and laid themselves open to summary punishment, without the shadow even of a claim to protection from this country. No more have those persons who aided in the destruction of the Caroline a claim upon the British government, yet they have the benefit of the excuse that their act was justified by the course of the Caroline, and of the Americans on the frontier, generally. The Americans were the first to break over the bounds of neutrality, and, though this will not justify their conduct, yet it ought, in our judgment, to palliate in some degree the odium of the act. The United States, through its authorities, were certainly blameable in not adopting more efficient and speedy measures for the preservation of neutrality on her part, which, if done, would have prevented this outrage; and, for this reason, we argue, the United States should not make the Caroline question the reason, or one of the reasons, for a war with Britain. Both nations are to blame, and, with nations as with individuals, when both are in the wrong, it is best for each to pocket his griefs and shake hands in amity.

Thus we have disposed of the second reason urged by the belligerent of our land.

In the next place we have the question of the right of search, and the case of the Creole. The consideration of the former we shall defer for another paper, at some future time. In fact, that question seems to have very little to do in urging on the pugnacious; the question of the north eastern boundary, the Caroline and Creole case, being the all powerful reasons, in their minds, for engaging precipitately in a war. As to the case of the Creole, we have only to say, as every true American ought, the British government deserves credit for the course it has pursued. The facts were simply these: a vessel embarked from a port in Virginia, with a cargo of slaves, bound for Louisiana. When the ship passed out of the Virginian waters, and consequently out of its jurisdiction, the slaves seized the vessel and killed those of the crew who resisted. No one will deny that this was more than he would have done under similar circumstances. Let every one put the question to himself, ask himself if he would not have done likewise. Assuredly, if a single spark of the love of liberty burned in his bosom. Can these slaves, then, be blamed for asserting their rights? No! Had they been whites, and slaves to some of the barbarian states of upper Africa, the deed would have been trumpeted far and wide, and they would have been hailed as heroes. But these men were black, *therefore* it is a crime for them to assert their liberty. Rare logic, that, but such must be the course of reasoning in the case, if the slaves are deemed blameable. But this is not the question with England.

The slaves, after taking the vessel, put in to one of the West India islands, belonging to England. A formal demand was made, by our consul, to have them given up to be sent to the United States, to be punished for the heinous crime of striking for their liberty. The British authorities refused to do so, and for that reason some of our chivalrous southern neighbors—those men who sneeringly called the mechanics and the laborers of the free north *slaves*—these men would rush into a war with England, and then, as they have done before, leave the "northern slaves" to bear the brunt, and pay the cost with their treasure and their blood. *Such* a reason for a war! ha, ha! No! on the contrary, whether the spirit of freedom dwells in a white man's breast, or a black one's, we must respect it, and no hand of ours will be raised against him who acts in accordance with its teachings.

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR.

The manufacture of this important article of consumption has of late years commanded much attention. In this country it ranks rather among the indispensible necessaries of life than the luxuries; and forms a commodity in commerce second to no other in importance.

It is well known that it may be prepared from an immense variety of articles, from the shreds of cotton cloth to the juice of the sugar cane and the maple. In this country it is chiefly manufactured from the cane or from the juice of the hard maple. Sugar manufactured from the cane forms by far the greater portion of all used in the world; that from the maple being in use only in the northern part of the U. States and in the Canadas. In France beet root sugar is manufactured to a considerable extent as it is also in a small degree in our own country. However it is not to be, supposed that beet root sugar, unless some important simplification in the process of manufacture is discovered, will be carried on to any very great extent. The sugar from the beet is superior in many respects to that from the cane, though housekeepers of undoubted taste and knowledge in such matters assert that it is not equal for culinary and other important purposes to the cane sugar.

The aggregate consumption of Sugar in Great Britain (from her colonies and other countries) is about 400,000,000 of lbs. per annum, while, for various reasons, in the United States it is about *twice* as much in proportion to the population, and the consumption here as well as in England is rapidly increasing.

Besides the cane, the maple and the beet, it has recently been discovered that sugar can be manufactured in great quantities from the common corn stalk, and a pamphlet from the national society of agriculture stating the fact and describing the process has induced these remarks. We noticed the formation of this society some time since and this pamphlet from the pen of Wm. Webb of Wilmington, Del., and published under the direction of the committee consisting of Levi Woodbury, Henry L. Ellsworth, E. Whittlesey, Jno. A. Smith, A. Hunter, and Wm. J. Stone, is among the first fruits of the organization of that useful society.

It is well known that our climate and soil are peculiarly adopted to the cultivation of Indian corn, and therefore if the stalk can be employed in the manufacture of sugar with success, it will open a new source of wealth and industry. That it can by perseverance be rendered so, is the object of this pamphlet to show, and the facts therein stated seem to set the question at rest.

It has been ascertained that the raw juiece of maize when raised with a view to the production of sugar, is higher than that of the sugar cane—that is, if a certain quantity of the juice of the sugar cane would produce eight pounds of sugar, the same quantity of the juice of the corn stalk would make ten pounds, while of the beet it would make only three pounds. If this is correct, then the juice of the corn stalk contains *one fourth* more sugar, in solution, than that of the cane. It is, of course, impossible to tell how great a quantity of sugar could be produced from the acre, but it is estimated from eight hundred to one thousand pounds. Another advantage the corn stalk possesses over the sugar cane. The latter is propa-

gated by layers, principally rattoons, and it requires the produce of one acre to plant *three*, while the produce of one acre of corn will plant forty, and, therefore, the difference in expense, for seed alone, would be no weak argument in favor of the maize stalk. "Thus, it seems," all things considered," says the pamphlet, "that one half of a crop of corn would be more profitable than a full crop of cane." Whether this subject will meet with the attention it deserves, remains to be seen; but, even if it should not become a profitable article of export, it will at least enable every family to furnish themselves with this necessary article of consumption, and save a considerable bill of expense, yearly paid for foreign sugars.

The matter is attracting considerable attention in France, and it would be no great matter of surprise to us, if the manufacture of sugar from the corn stalk should supersede, in some degree, that of the cane. Certainly the facts in this pamphlet, if they are correct, and we presume they are, would seem to warrant such a conclusion. We would commend the subject to such of our readers who, like us, "do love the *sweets* of life."

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF THE STATES

The greatest quantity of sugar was raised in Louisiana, from the cane, being 19,947,720 pounds, while the quantity raised from the maple in New York was 10,018,109, more than one-half as much as La.; Ohio, which ranks the third in quantity, produced 6,363,386 pounds. The greatest quantity of wheat was raised in Ohio; of corn in Kentucky; of rye in Pennsylvania; of oats in Pennsylvania and New York, about 20½ millions in each; of barley in New York—2½ millions, more than half the total of the whole union; of buckwheat in New York and Pennsylvania—about two million bushels in each; of potatoes in New York; of neat cattle in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio, about equal; of sheep in New York, of swine in Kentucky; of poultry and butter and cheese in New York; of products of the orchard in New York; of rice in South Carolina; of cotton in Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Alabama.

MINIATURES.

We have neglected to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mr. D. Wagner, miniature painter, in another column of our paper. Mr. W. is one of the best artists our country affords, besides having the honor of being self-taught. His pictures have the rare merits of exquisite coloring and close delineation united, and we would recommend him to those who may wish to see fine pictures—or, what is more to the purpose, those who may wish to secure counterparts of themselves for their friends, their sweethearts, or posterity.

His rooms are at No. 22, Douw's Buildings.

THE PRISON BILL.

The bill introduced by Mr. Schwackhamer, and published in our last paper, passed the Senate on Wednesday, as it came from the Assembly, by a vote of 25 to 3—Messrs. Root, Peck and Dixon voting in the negative. This bill is a mere revival of the old act of 1835, with the addition of a penal enactment, and a section providing for the appointment of a committee to investigate the propriety of establishing a prison near the northern mines, and the employment of convicts therein, with instructions to report to our next legislature. The bill does not appear to be satisfactory to all, but is the best that could be had. It was in the hands of the governor, when our paper went to press, and will become a law without doubt. We shall probably have some further remarks to make at a future day, on this subject.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We again remind correspondents that their articles will appear as soon after they are received as we can find room for them, or as they come in order. Several articles in prose and poetry are on file awaiting their turn.

FREE TRADE QUERIES.

Do or do not the laboring portions of those countries with whom this country holds the most commerce, work for a much lower rate of wages than in this? And, if yea; then would not practical free trade with those countries reduce the wages of labor in this or any other country trading with them to about the same standard of wages? For instance—suppose that in England the manufacturers of cloth get thirty-five cents a day for their work, and with an unresisted trade with them, how much would the cloth manufacturer of this country be able to earn per day in competition with them?

If the manufacturer of cutlery works for twenty-five cents per day, in Sheffield, and the gun makers of Birmingham work for the same wages, what will be the price of labor here to compete with them under a free trade?

If in Italy and France the silk manufacturers get but one shilling per day for their work, all else being equal, what wages could an American get and compete with them in our own market?

If the agricultural laborer gets but fifteen cents a day in European countries, could our farmers sell to them the produce of our soil without putting labor down to the same price, or labor for its production here?

Does not the present system of trade with Europe enable her to glut our markets, and, by underselling us here, to constantly drain us of our specie, whilst we are debarred from their markets by their tariff impositions upon our manufactures as well as nearly all of our agricultural products?

Would not the free trade principles, if carried into practice, tend to lower the price of labor of all kinds? And, if yea; would it also lower the expenses of the government in proportion? the salaries of our officers, pay of the army and navy, pay of foreign ministers and agents, legal and professional pay? will it lower the rate of interest, lessen pensions and annuities? will it lessen the amount due on a note, bond, or mortgage, or facilitate the debtor in the payment of them? Will it not enhance the wealth of the rich just in proportion as it depresses the wages of labor?

When these questions are satisfactorily answered by the free trade advocates, there will be no difficulty for the people of this country to decide which doctrine they are in favor of. YANKEE.

FOOD BEARING PLANTS.

III. PLANTAIN.

This forms one of the most curious as well as one of the most useful productions of the earth. It is found wild in the forests of Chittagong in India, where it blossoms during the rains. It is now extensively cultivated in all intertropical countries; in equinoctal Asia and America, in tropical Africa, in the islands of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; where ever the mean heat of the year exceeds 75 degrees Fahrenheit, the plantain is one of the most interesting objects of cultivation for the food of man. It is not, like most other fruits, used merely as an occasional luxury, but rather as an established article of subsistence. Three dozen fruits, it is said, will maintain a person instead of bread for a week, and appears better suited to him in warm countries than that kind of food. Indeed the plantain is often the support of an Indian family.

The fruit grows in clusters upon a stem of about four feet in length, which rises out of the top of the plant, and droops under a weight of from 30 to 80 pounds. It varies in form, being usually long and narrow, from 3 to 10 inches in length, and about an inch in diameter, and in color offers all the shades and variations of tints, that the combination of yellow and red, in different proportions, can produce. Being long and extensively cultivated, it has diverged into numerous varieties, the fruit of which differ materially in size, flavor and color. To point out all the kinds that are cultivated in the East Indies alone would be as difficult as to describe the different varieties of the apple in this country. Some cultivaters at Batavia boast of having 80 sorts; fourteen varieties are natives of Malabar, and twenty of Sumatra.

In the West Indies and Mexico, the plantain appears to be even more extensively employed than in the eastern world. The modes of eating them are various. The best sorts are served up raw at table, and have been compared for flavor to the most delicious pears. Sometimes they are baked in their skins, they are also the ingredient of a variety of dishes, particularly in one called mantegue, which is made of slices of them fried in butter and powdered over with fine sugar. Of the many cultivated sorts, that called by the French *la banane musquee* is considered the best; it is less in size than the others, but has a more delicate flavor. The large kind are for the most part coarse and farinaceous; these are used fresh or dried in the sun, in which latter state they are occasionally ground into meal and made into bread. In Mexico the sweeter sorts are frequently dried and pressed as figs are in Europe, and while they are not very inferior to the last mentioned fruit, they are infinitly cheaper. It there forms a principal part of the food of the people, and the apathy and indolence of the nations in the hot regions is ascribed with some reason to the facility with which it supplies them with food. Humboldt estimates that a piece of ground of about 10 square rods will contain 40 plants; and that sufficient space to produce 30 pounds of wheat, or 90 of potatoes in Europe, will yiely 4000 lbs. of plantains!

In the climates that suit it, there is no plant more extensively useful, independently of its being an indispensable article of food. A tough fibre, capable of being made into thread of great fineness, is obtained from its stem; and the leaves, from their breadth and hardness, form an excellent material for the thatch of cottages. An intoxicating liquor is also made from the fruits, when fermented, and the young shtoos are eaten as a delicate vegetable. A species of plantain which grows in the Phillipines furnishes the material for the valuable thread called Manilla hemp.

The banana of hot countries is a mere variety of the plantain, distinguished by being dwarf, with a spotted stem and a more delicate fruit. Botanists call it *Musa paradisiaca*, in allusion to an old notion that it was the forbidden fruit of scripture; it has also been supposed to be what was intended by the grape, one bunch of which was born upon a pole between the two men, that the spies of Moses brought out of the promised land. The only argument of any

importance in support of the latter opinion is, that there is no other fruit to which the weight of the fruit of scripture will apply.

LIEBER.

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS, ETC.

In Pittsburgh, Pa., several large iron works have stopped for the present, and a number of foundries are doing but a limited business.

Twenty-three convicts were sent up to the Sing Sing prison, from New York, during the month of March.

The *Times and Seasons*, the Mormon newspaper, published at Nauvoo by Joseph Smith, has commenced the translation of a book written by Abraham, and discovered in the catacombs of Egypt! This people, from a handful of persecuted outcasts, have become a numerous sect, and are able to protect themselves against insult and oppression; in fact, it is said that they have revolutionized the state of Illinois.

Uncle Sam, says the Philadelphia Spirit of the Times, is now obliged to pay $2,000 per diem for congressional sessions of three hours duration. This is upwards of $666 per hour! The time required to make the call of the house is about 20 minutes, consequently, every call of the ayes and nays costs the nation $222.

Mr. J. Marshall, of Leeds, Yorkshire, England, has built a mill for the manufacture of flax, one of which —supposed to be the largest in the world—covers upwards of two acres of ground. It is lighted from the top by skylights, and the portion not required for the glass is covered with soil and laid out as a garden. The firm employ in their manufactory at this place upwards of 1500 persons.

Several ancient tombs has just been discovered at Malta, containing urns, lachrymatories, and sepulchral lamps.

The Dutch experiment of importing camels into Java is a failure. The animals brought into that island from Bengal were found to lose their strength.

The number of titled persons in the British empire amount by right, to nearly three thousand; and those by courtesy to about five thousand.

It is said that Lord Morpeth is about to be married to a fair American, named Appleton, daughter of a wealthy merchant of Boston.

The oldest officer in the British army is Gen. Scott, of Balleney, the 97th birth day of this gallant veteran having been celebrated by his tenantry on the 6th.

The Duchess of Chevereux, who was for the first time at the Court of England in 1633, swam across the Thames in a frolic, near Windsor.

The Belfast Vindicator states that his Holiness Pope Gregory XIV is a tee-totaller, and wears the medal of the Cork Total Abstinence Society.

The best plan of destroying rats is to bait traps with a little oatmeal, scented with a very little of the "Essential of Oil of Rhodium."

It is stated by the Russian papers that the annual produce of the private gold mines and gold works in Siberia has increased since 1829, from 100 to 222 pounds (or nearly £3,500 English.)

The Leinster Express states that at the Parsonstown Quarter Sessions last week, Patrick Collins was convicted of "maliciously killing and slaying a goat," and sentenced to be hung on the 8th of February next.

A late Bombay paper states that when the plague devastated Malta about thirty years ago, the commanding officer of one of the garrisons, hearing of the escape of the oil porters on the opposite shore, ordered his men to immerse their linen in oil every morning, which entirely secured them against the disease.

A letter from Bayonne says:—"The Bay of Biscay, which had been abandoned by the whales for the last 300 years, is again visited by them. Several have been seen during the last week by the fishermen of the coast between Biarria and Socoa."

A letter from St. Petersburgh states, that the Emperor of Russia has resolved to allow several more Poles who took part in the revolution to return home. Among them is Prince Oginski, who, for several years past has subsisted in France as a bookbinder.

There is among the Chinese the abridgment of an Encyclopedia in four hundred and sixty volumes, while the Encyclopedia itself consists of six thousand volumes!

A young man died a few days ago in Edinburgh, from hemorrage, occasioned by the extraction of a tooth.

The Thames Tunnel will be finally opened to the public about the second or third week in April, when a small toll will be affixed for passage from one side of the river to the other.

There is nothing keeps longer than a middling fortune, and nothing melts away sooner than a great one. Poverty treads upon the heels of great and unexpected riches.

The whole number of blind persons in the U. States, according to the last census, is 6,916; of whom 5,024 are whites and 2,892 colored.

Died, at London, on the 28th of December, aged 93, Mr. W. Ward, late head messenger in the Sun Fire Office, having held a situation in that society for upwards of *seventy years*.

The rage for walking, standing, turning a grindstone, &c., for forty eight hours in succession, has induced a young married lady of our acquaintance just below here, to undertake the task of *holding her tongue* forty eight—minutes! We'll bet one to fifty she can't do it.

A gentleman having given a quantity of peaches to the laborers on the rail road in the vicinity of Boston, one of them was asked how he liked them. He said the fruit wat very good, but the seed scratched his throat a little as he swallowed them.

It is said to be a great mark of friendship to kiss a married lady out of pure love for her husband.

An Irishman cautions the public against harboring or trusting his wife Peggy, on his account, as he is *not married to her*.

Snuff-takers differ from all the rest of the world, for they *turn up their noses* at what they most admire.

This reminds us of a cogent reason which was given against snuff taking, namely, that if the nose had been disigned to take snuff, it would have been turned up, instead of down.

A quarry of bird's eye marble has been discovered near Iowa City, that bears a polish equal to the finest Italian. Specimens have been taken to St. Louis, where they have been set in gold for breast-pins.

A letter to the editors of the National Intelligence from a respectable gentleman in the state of North Carolina, under the date of March 25, 1842, says; "We have now in this 'state twenty cotton factories, worked by, I presume, more than 1,800 white operatives. I am now shipping a lot of goods directly to New Bedford, and expect to supply that market with a proportion for shipment around Cape Horn. Southern goods stand high in New York, Philadelphia, and other markets into which they have been introduced."

A cooper's shop was set on fire in West Troy on Friday night of last week and the building, with 3000 barrels. was burnt.

Among the bills now before Parliament, a measure has been presented to "incorporate a company to insure farmers and gardners against loss from the effects of hail storms, under the title, 'the Farmers, and Gardiners' Hailstorm Insurance Company'"!

We saw one of Wilder's Salamander Safes yesterday taken from the ruins of the store occupied by J. W. Stanton & Co. The books and papers it contained were in as perfect a state of perservation as they would have been had there not been a fire within ten squares of them. The ordeal through which they had passed was not a slight one—the oil and candles in the store of Stanton & Co. made about as comfortable a fire as we desire to see.—*N. O. Pic. March 17.*

The above SAFES are on sale in this city by E. C. Salisbury, 193 River-st.—*Troy Whig.*

HOME INDUSTRY MEETING.

At a very numerous and enthusiastic meeting held at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, of the friends of American industry, without distinction of party, who are in favor of protecting the home interest of every class and description of American industry, looking to the whole extent of such interests, without sectional bias or party dictation:

The meeting was called to order and the call read by H. B. Haswell, Esq., on whose motion Thaddeus Joy was called to the chair, and R. S. Cushman and G. B. Steele appointed secretaries.

On motion of Mr. H. B. Haswell, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the meeting: Horace Meech, Geo. Hanford, John Van Ness, Dyer Lathrop, and B. C. True, who reported the following:

Hon. TEUNIS VAN VECHTEN, *President*: Peter Gansevoort, Jared L. Rathbone, C. A. Ten Eyck, James Goold, Cor's Vanderbelt, Friend Humphrey, O. G. De Groff, John Knowles, Thaddeus Joy, I. L. Judson, Hiram Perry, George Warren, John Townsend, *Vice-Presidents*: R. S. Cushman, George B. Steele, Lyman J. Lloyd, *Secretaries*.

On motion of Hon. Willis Hall, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting—the chair named the following gentlemen as said committee: Willis Hall, Thomas W. Olcott, Wm. V. Many, Lemuel Steele, John L. Wendell, E. P. Prentice, and B. F. Stuats.

On motion, the following persons were appointed a committee of one from each ward, to select suitable persons to represent this city and county in the National Home Industry Convention, to be held in the city of New York, on the 5th inst.: 1st ward, James Colvin; 2d do. Jeremiah Osborn; 3d do. Miles Joy; 4th do. Wm. Smith; 5th do. Thomas McMullen; 6th do. Jas. Maher; 7th do. John W. Cluett; 8th do. John McKnight; 9th do. John Lansing; 10th do. Jacob Henry. Who retired and reported the following persons as delegates, who were unanimously accepted:

Lemuel Steele, Willis Hall, Friend Humphrey, Daniel Fry, Anthony M. Strong, Levi Woodburn, Seth Crane, Richard McCabe, George Vance, jr., Peter Relyea, jr., Miles Joy, Thos. L. Greene, Francis Bryan, Wm. McElroy, James Edwards, Jeremiah Osborn, C. A. Ten Eyck, Henry Newman, J. C. Wellington, John Knower, John Townsend, Wm. V. Many, James Horner, Lewis Clark, Jared L. Rathbone, George Warren, John L. Wendell, Henry B. Haswell, Robert C. Russell, E. C. McIntosh, James Kidd, Cor's Vanderbelt, Hiram Perry, Jacob Henry Peter Monteath, Geo A. Hoyt, Ira Porter, Joel Rathbone, Thomas Guest, James Goold, Stephen Menick, Thos. B. Ridder, J. S. Van Rensselaer, Wm. G. Doyermand.

Willis Hall, Esq., from the committee on resolutions, reported the following, which—after a very forcible and eloquent address in support of the same, to which the meeting warmly responded—were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the right of every nation to protect their own industry against foreign competition has as deep a foundation as the right to protect its soil from invasion, and, as a necessary incident to such right, every independent state may impose such terms on the introduction of foreign products as the interests of its own citizens may require.

Resolved, That it was not the design of the American people, in divesting themselves of this right, in their organization as states, to abandon this universal principle of self protection, but rather to enlarge and invigorate its action by entrusting it to that *Federal Government*, which could alone guarantee its efficient exercise by reconciling the conflicting interests of different sections—harmonizing their conflicting opinions and combining their various powers and capacities to the great end of developing the *wealth* by protecting the *labor*, not of separate and distracted commonwealths, but of a united country.

Resolved, That however the doctrine of free trade may commend itself to philosophical speculators, we may better learn from the actual experience of nations than from the neglected theories of their economists.

Resolved, That a Tariff for protection, as adapted to imports as effectually to countervail the competition of foreign countries, and secure to our own mechanics and manufacturers the home market for all the fabrics of necessity and comfort, and provide a vent for agricultural productions, is essential to make the country truly independent, and to restore and permanently establish its prosperity.

Resolved, That while American industry and enterprise, under a system of free trade universally adopted, would have nothing to fear from a free, fair and unrestrained intercourse with all nations, yet justice and policy alike forbid us to open our ports to the nation which closes hers to us, or to pay to such nations the full proceeds of her productions sold in our markets, while she returns to us but half the prices for which she purchases ours. Our experience of such a policy has demonstrated that it produces frequent and disastrous revulsions, extending to and disturbing all the interests and relations of society—that it induces excessive importation—creates sudden drains of specie—contracts the currency—impairs confidence, interrupts business—lessens wages and depresses property. In short, that the unequal compact makes one party labor for the benefit of the other, and effectually establishes the relation of master and slave.

Resolved, That the assumption that increased protection is required only for the benefit of the manufacturer, is a great and mischievous error. Every interest in every part of our country, the manufactures of the east, the wheat, iron and coal of the midland states, the hemp and tobacco of the west, the cotton and rice of the south, are now oppressed beyond endurance by the duties and imposts of foreign nations, which can be removed or counteracted only by countervailing duties and imposts at home. Let then the agriculturist, the manufacturer, the mechanic and the merchant, thus bound together in misfortune, be united in action; they will soon burst from their bondage and be united in the rich enjoyment of a common prosperity.

Resolved, That we consider this subject paramount to all matters of merely party interest, as it involves the permanent prosperity and welfare of all classes of society—it reaches the home and hearth of every citizen of this great republic—it makes up an issue between the servitude and pauperism of Europe and the freehold labor of the United States. And it calls upon the true-hearted and true minded *democracy* of the country to forget all minor differences, to heal all narrow divisions, to discard all less general and generous preferences and partialities, and to unite in one vigorous, combined and persevering effort to reassert the rights of American *industry*, and to re-establish the early vigor of our glorious constitution.

On motion, the proceedings of this meeting were ordered to be published in all the papers of this city and a copy forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

On motion, adjourned.

TEUNIS VAN VECHTEN, President.

R. S. CUSHMAN,
GEORGE B. STEELE, } Sec's.
LYMAN J. LLOYD,

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MISCELLANY.

THE OLD CORDWAINER.

In the days of my boyhood, I recollect well,
And others, no doubt, this odd story can tell,
Our tradesmen were honest, and ne'er thought of cheating,
And, what is more strange, they would all go to meeting!
There was *Shoemaker* Lot,
I remember the spot,
And the bench where he sat,
With his strap o'er his knee!
He was honest and fair,
And exact to a hair,
And a faithful old *cordwainer* he.

One moonshiny night (thanksgiving was coming)
I mounted in haste uncle Jeremy's mare;
"Off Dobbin," said I, "let your trotters be drumming,
Towards uncle *Lot's*," and she soon had me there,
O, good uncle Lot,
I remember the spot,
And the bench where he sat,
With his strap o'er his knee!
Our shoes were all ready
For me and for Neddy,
And Sally and Betty,
And Dolly and Hetty,
What a faithful old *cordwainer* he!

Then there was the stitching, so strong and so nice,
Why, the threads held the leather as strong as a vice!
There was none of your pegging, and none of your nailing,
And there was no fretting, and scolding, and railing,
When *Shoemaker* Lot,
He work'd on the spot,
Which I 've not forgot,
With his strap o'er his knee.
How strong he would sew them!
I wish he'd now shew them,
What a faithful old *cordwainer* he.

But alas, now-a-days, how chang'd is this matter!
And honesty seems to go begging about;
For one scarce has a coat, or a shoe, or a garter,
That will last more than three weeks before 't is worn out!
O that some uncle Lot
Would again take the spot,
And the bench where he sat,
With his strap o'er his knee,
And would work at the trade,
And have shoes faithful made,
No cheat and no cozen,
No rips by the dozen,
What a useful *cordwainer* he 'd be!

INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE.

The following extracts, from Burnap's lectures, are worthy the attention of all young men:

"When you have sufficient intelligence to perceive what you ought to be, and judgment enough to discern what you may be, and decision enough to determine what you will be, the next indispensible qualities to success are industry and perseverance. Labor is the universal law, a law in which all who have their fortunes to make, that is, all the young and enterprising, ought especially to rejoice. Labor is the grand magician, which is secretly conveying the good things of this world from hand to hand, while mankind look on and wonder how it is done. Who now possess the wealth and high places of the land? Mainly those who labored for them hard and long. From whose hands are they imperceptibly gliding? From those who are too indolent to earn them. It is incredible what mere industry will accomplish in this world of toil, I had almost said it is the prime requisite.

"It is wonderful what deception lurks under a few common words and phrases in our language. 'What a fortunate man!' we hear the world exclaim, when they ses a man flourishing in his business. In nine cases out of ten, the very term is flattering unction, which the indolent or unenterprising man is laying to his soul, that the only difference between him and his successful neighbor, is that of luck. In a majority of instances he may at venture substitute in the place of fortunate, industrious. He may venture to say, before he examines the case, that the cause of success was the same as was observed of Julius Cæsar, 'He always succeeded, because he left nothing undone which could secure success.'

"Let not the young mind repine at the law of labor, and the inevitable and inexorable necessity of personal exertion, which it imposes upon him. It is the most favorable thing to those who have their own way to make in this world, and is among the favorable circumstances by which they are surrounded. It is the great agrarian law, which, in a manner, levels all distinction, and gives the poor man an inheritance in this world more certain, though not so exclusive as the rich, in his own talents, faculties, and capacities. By making all welfare and acquisition depend on labor, all mankind are provided for, and all monopolies in effect done away."

"I have a spark in my eye," said a lady in the cars. The jade was looking forward at a spruce young gentleman sitting opposite to her.

LAUGHABLE BLUNDER.

Affairs, more particularly of the heart, make up always a good many pages in the history of early life. I took it into my head that a little girl, who lived in the neighborhood, was absolutely, and to all intents and purposes—an angel—that she had no equal in the world—was the most beautiful, bewitching, elegant, ethereal minded being that ever was sent below the clouds—I was sincere and confident of this—I took every opportunity of seeing her, and, if by dint of courage and ingenuity I succeeded, it afforded me a week's happiness—these were all, necessarily, Sunday occasions, when people look as prettily as possible.

At last an extra opportunity of seeing the fair creature occurred—I was to go over to the farm on an errand. An ambassador on his first introduction to the presence of a sovereign could not have made better display of his wardrobe than I did of mine—every hair was exactly adjusted—my hat put carefully on—a pair of clean shoes under my arm, which were to be carried to the farmer's bars—and, in short, I went as every lovesick blockhead goes the first time to see his mistress, most particularly fine, and feeling most particularly foolish.

I gained the awful bars that brought me in view of the more awful presence of my angel. Stuck my old shoes under a log, put on my new ones, and went forward, after having practised a bow or two. Walking leisurely down the lane, as near the fence as possible, I met a drove of cows, and a girl, dressed in a dirty linsey frock, barefoot, and with her mouth and bosom besmeared with mush and molasses, driving them forward with sticks and stones—I met the company—heavens! the driver was my Sunday flame—but, what an angel! I threw my hat down in the road, rumpled my hair, stuck both my shoes in the mud, and thought that I was going crazy. I was never afterwards a very enthusiastic lover.

There is a plain, straight forward way of trudging through the world; and we may as well accustom ourselves to it first as last. Expecting nothing, we shall not be disappointed—a little skeptical on many matters of appearance, we shall reach the reality without surprise—and the sooner we arrive at the age of reason, perhaps the better it will be for us.

LITERARY CURIOSITY.

The following letter was addressed by William Shakspeare to Anna Hathaway, afterwards his wife, enclosing a lock of his hair plaited:

"*Dearest Anna*—As thou hast always found me to mye worde most trewe, soe thou shalt see I have strictlye kepte mye promyise. I praye you perfume thys loke with thye balmye kisses, forre thenne indeed shall kynges themselves bowe and praye to itte. I doe assure thee noe rude hand hath knottede itte, thy Willey's hath done the work: neythere the gyldedde bauble that envryonnes the heede of Majestye, noe, norre honurres most weghtie, would give me half the joye as dydde thyse my lyttle worke forre thee. The feelings thatte dydde neareste approache unto ittte was thatte which commeth nygheste unto Gode, meek and gentle charytye; forre thatte virtue O, Anna, doe I love, doe I cherishe thee inne mye hearte, forre thou arte as a tall cedarre, strechchyne forthe its branches and succoringe the smalleste plantes from nyppinge winneterre, orr the boysterous wyndes. Farewelle! toe morrowe bye times I will see thee; till thenne, adewe, sweete love. Thynne evere,

WM. SHAKSPEARE.

ANNA HATHAWAY.
Sept. the Nynth, 1589.

A chimney sweeper's boy went into a baker's shop for a two penny loaf, and conceiving it to be diminutive in size, he remarked to the baker, he did not believe it was weight. Never mind that, replied the man of dough, you will have the *less to carry*. True, rejoined the lad, and throwing on the counter three half pence, left the shop. The baker called after him that he had not paid money enough. Never mind that, hallooed the boy, you will have the *less to count*.

A German, who came to Paris to learn the fashions and modes of the capital, heard the conversation often turn on the advantages of gas and its preferableness to oil but he did nor venture to betray his ignorance by asking for explanations. One day, being at dinner at a restaurateur's, he asked for turbot—Sir will you take *oil* with it? said the waiter. No, I am acquaited with a new mode, replied the German, give me some *gas!*

"I can't *find* bread for my family." said a lazy sinner in a public company. "Nor I." replied an industrious miller, "I'm obliged to *work* for it."

A FEMALE VILLAGE.

The village of Madann (says the *Augsburgh Gazette*) which is about 14 German miles (60 English) from Rustschak, in Wallachia, offers at the present moment a curious ethnographical singularity, having been inhabited by woman only for the last 30 years. At one period this feminine population amounted to 2000. The ladies did not live as warriors, like the Amazons of old, but they avoided all contact with men, and drove away from their territories all who approached with matrimonial intentions. The anti-social settlement is now supposed to be on the decline; at least no more recruits are made from the disappointed or the love-crossed, and the members of the population are rapidly decreasing. These women are nearly all Mahometans.

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Schenectady, Nov. 26, 1841.

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